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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION OCTOBER 1, 1930.

The shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the eleven Corn Belt States during the three months July to September this year points to a material reduction in the supply of grain finished cattle to be marketed during the coming winter. The number of cattle and calves inspected through markets for shipment into the Corn Belt for these three months this year was about 25 per cent smaller than for the same months last year, 30 per cent smaller than the 5 year average, and much the smallest in 12 years.

The shipments into all of the states in this area, except Nebraska, were smaller this year than last, the most marked decreases being into the states where feed production was most seriously affected by the drought. The shipments into the states east of the Mississippi were 40 per cent smaller than last year, while into the states west of the river they were only 16 per cent smaller.

There seems little liklihood that the movement of unfinished cattle during the last three months of this year will be much larger relatively than during the three months July to September. Present indications are that the shipments during the three months October to December this year will be a considerably smaller proportion of the total shipments for the 6 months, July to December, than last year, when they were a much larger proportion than usual of this total. If this proves to be the case the total 6 months movement this year may be nearly a third smaller than last year.

Records of the kinds and weights of stocker and feeder cattle shipped from four leading markets show material increases this year over last in the percentage of heavy feeders (over 1,000 lbs.) and of calves, and a marked decrease in the percentage of cows and heifers and some decrease in the percentage of yearling steers. In the case of calves the actual number is nearly 20 per cent larger this year than last although the total movement of cattle and calves from the four markets was 20 per cent smaller this year.

The decreased shipments of unfinished cattle this year are due largely to the unfavorable feed situation in most of the leading feeding states and also, in part, to the unprofitable returns from feeding operations during the past 6 months. The reduction of 25 per cent in shipments of such cattle this year from last has been accompanied by a decrease in price of around 35 per cent.

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